

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method for displaying a predictively coded compressed video signal  
2       in a reverse time sequence comprising the steps of:

3           decoding and storing any I-frames and P-frames from a first group of pictures  
4       (GOP) upon initiation of a reverse play command; and

5           after storing the decoded I-frames and P-frames from the first GOP, displaying  
6       video images from the first GOP in the reverse time sequence, including the steps of:

7           decoding any bidirectionally predictively encoded frames (B-frames)  
8       using the stored I-frames and P-frames and displaying the B-frames as they are  
9       decoded;

10          displaying the stored I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP as they  
11       are encountered in the reverse time sequence; and

12          while displaying the I-frames and the P-frames, decoding and storing  
13       respective I-frames and P-frames from a second GOP, following the first GOP in the  
14       reverse time sequence.

1           2. A method according to claim 1 wherein:

2           the step of decoding and storing the I-frames and P-frames includes the step of  
3       downsampling the decoded I-frames and P-frames to produce respective downsampled I-  
4       frames and P-frames and storing the downsampled I-frames and P-frames;

5           the step of decoding the B-frames includes the step of filtering the decoded B-  
6       frames to display a reduced-resolution image; and

7           the step of displaying the I-frames and the P-frames includes the step of  
8       upsampling the stored I-frames and P-frames to provide respective reduced-resolution images  
9       for display.

1           3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the predictively coded  
2 compressed video signal is an MPEG compressed video signal and the steps of decoding I-  
3 frames and P-frames include the step of applying an MPEG decoding process.

1           4. A method for displaying an MPEG coded compressed video signal in a  
2 reverse time sequence comprising the steps of:

3           retrieving a first group of pictures (GOP) upon initiation of a reverse play  
4 command, the retrieved first GOP being the GOP displayed immediately preceding the  
5 command;

6           decoding any I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP and storing them in a  
7 memory;

8           displaying the decoded I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP as the I-frames  
9 and P-frames are encountered in the reverse time sequence;

10          constructing and displaying any B frames of the first GOP as the B-frames are  
11 encountered in the reverse time sequence; and

12          decoding I-frames and P frames of a second GOP and storing the decoded I-  
13 frames and P-frames of the second GOP in the memory, the second GOP being a next  
14 preceding GOP, wherein each I-frame and P-frame of the second GOP is decoded while a  
15 respective one of the I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP is being displayed.

1           5. A method according to claim 4 wherein:

2           the step of decoding and storing the I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP  
3 includes the step of downsampling the decoded I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP to  
4 produce downsampled key frames and storing the downsampled key frames;

5           the step of decoding the B-frames includes the step of filtering the decoded B-  
6 frames to display a reduced-resolution image; and

7               the step of displaying the I-frames and the P-frames includes the step of  
8       upsampling the stored I-frames and P-frames to display respective reduced-resolution images.

1               6.       Apparatus which displays a predictively coded compressed video signal  
2       in a reverse time sequence comprising:

3               a video decoder which decodes intra-coded frames (I-frames) and predictively  
4       coded frames (P-frames) from a first group of pictures (GOP) upon initiation of a reverse  
5       play command;

6               a memory into which the video decoder stores the decoded I-frames and P-  
7       frames of the first GOP;

8               means for displaying a frame stored in memory while the I-frames and P-  
9       frames of the first GOP are decoded; and

10              a controller that controls the video decoder, the memory and the means for  
11       displaying such that, after the decoded I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP have been  
12       stored, the controller:

13              a) controls the video decoder to decode bidirectionally predictively  
14       encoded frames (B-frames) using the stored key frames and controls the means for  
15       displaying to display the B-frames as they are decoded;

16              b) controls the means for displaying to display the I-frames and P-  
17       frames from the memory as they are encountered in the reverse time sequence; and

18              c) controls the decoder and the memory to decode and store I-frames  
19       and P-frames from a second GOP, following the first GOP in the reverse time  
20       sequence, while respective ones of the I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP are  
21       displayed.

1               7.       Apparatus according to claim 6 further including:

2                   a filter, coupled to the decoder for generating respective reduced-resolution  
3 versions of the decoded I-frames, P-frames and B-frames; and

4                   a downampler which decimates the reduced-resolution versions of the  
5 decoded I-frames and P-frames before the I-frames and P-frames are stored in the memory.

1                 8.      Apparatus for displaying a predictively coded compressed video signal  
2 in a reverse time sequence comprising:

3                   means for decoding and storing any I-frames and P-frames from a first group  
4 of pictures (GOP) upon initiation of a reverse play command; and

5                   means for displaying video images from the first GOP in the reverse time  
6 sequence, including:

7                   means for decoding any bidirectionally predictively encoded frames (B-  
8 frames) using the stored I-frames and P-frames and for displaying the B-frames as they are  
9 decoded;

10                  means for displaying the stored I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP  
11 as they are encountered in the reverse time sequence; and

12                  means for decoding and storing I-frames and P-frames from a second  
13 GOP, following the first GOP in the reverse time sequence, while the means for displaying  
14 the stored I-frames and P-frames displays respective ones of the I-frames and the P-frames of  
15 the first GOP.

1                 9.      Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein:

2                   the means for decoding and storing the I-frames and P-frames includes means  
3 for downsampling the decoded I-frames and P-frames to produce respective downsampled I-  
4 frames and P-frames and means for storing the downsampled I-frames and P-frames;

5           the means for decoding the B-frames includes filtering means for filtering the  
6 decoded B-frames to display a reduced-resolution image; and

7           means for displaying the I-frames and the P-frames includes upsampling  
8 means for upsampling the stored downsampled I-frames and P-frames to provide respective  
9 reduced-resolution images for display.

1           10.   A computer-readable carrier including computer program instructions  
2 that cause a computer to perform a method of displaying an MPEG coded compressed video  
3 signal in a reverse time sequence, the method comprising the steps of:

4           retrieving a first group of pictures (GOP) upon initiation of a reverse play  
5 command, the retrieved first GOP being the GOP displayed immediately preceding the  
6 command;

7           decoding any I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP and storing them in a  
8 memory;

9           displaying the decoded I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP as the I-frames  
10 and P-frames are encountered in the reverse time sequence;

11           decoding and displaying any B frames of the first GOP as the B-frames are  
12 encountered in the reverse time sequence; and

13           decoding I-frames and P frames of a second GOP and storing the decoded I-  
14 frames and P-frames of the second GOP in the memory, the second GOP being the next  
15 preceding GOP, wherein each I-frame and P-frame of the second GOP is decoded while a  
16 respective one of the I-frames and P-frames of the first GOP are being displayed.